

THE

לְפָנֶיךָ

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Israel's Tribute to Poet Bialik

Keren Hayesod: Fund-Raising for Growth

Kibbutz Scrip

A Medal for Dr. David de Sola Pool

Roman Coins Found in Tennessee

Jewish Minters and Engravers

New Data on Pre-State Tokens

1971 Specimen Set Announced

AINA's Third Study Tour Set

Display Circulates Across U. S.

Club News and Other Features

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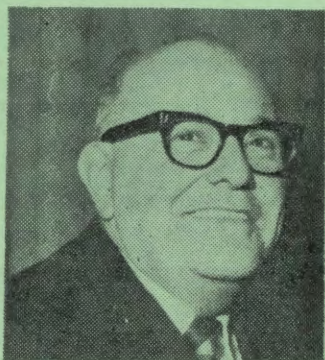
THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In a few short weeks, it will be 1971. I wish there were an AINA calendar so that we could have it read: 1971 + 1.

The "+ 1" would stand for a few things which I think will be responsible

for making AINA grow faster in the coming year than it has in the past.

For example, what if each member of AINA in a club . . . or each collector in a city without a club, made it his business to introduce the idea of collecting coins of Israel to just ONE more person. If that person was interested to the point of wishing to learn more about Israel's coinage of the past or present, he or she would surely want to join AINA. That "+ 1" idea would double our membership in a single year.

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NEW IL 10 BANKNOTE HONORS BIALIK — ISRAEL'S FOREMOST POET (1873-1934)

Jerusalem A new IL. 10 banknote bearing a portrait of Israel's foremost poet, Chaim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934) was put into circulation on August 6, 1970. The new note will gradually replace the present IL. 10 note which will be withdrawn from circulation as the notes wear out.

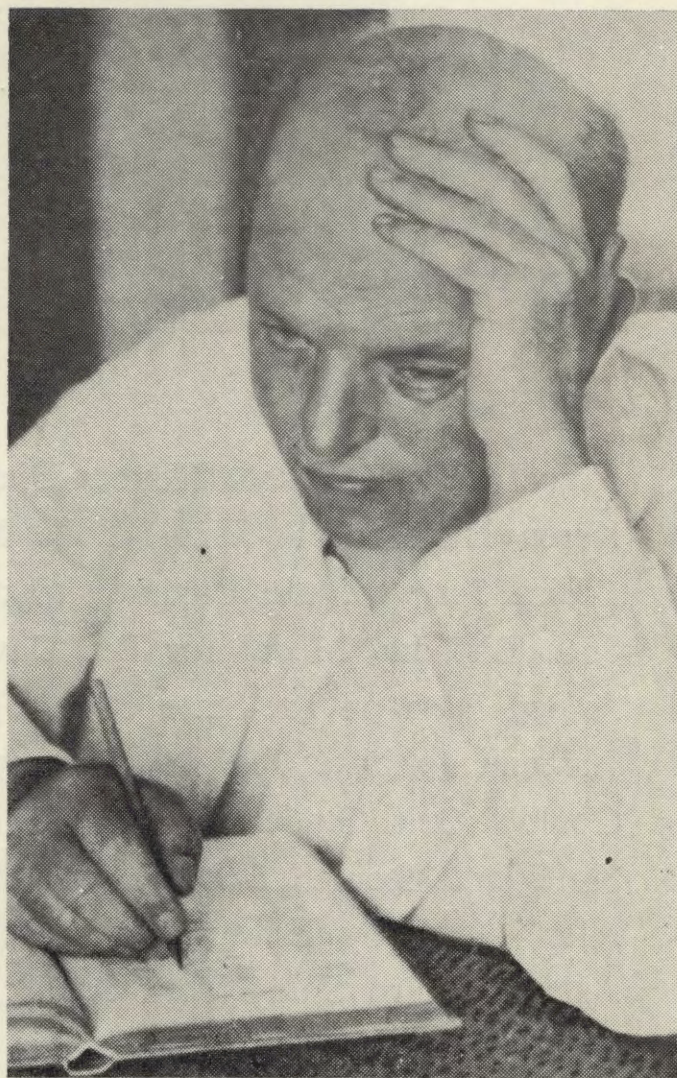
The new note is one centimeter longer, and a quarter of a centimeter narrower than the existing 5 13/16" x 3 3/16" note. A special plastic coating given to the surface insures a longer life than the former issue. Its dominant color is ivory-light brown.

This is the second note in the new *Series Gimmel* issue. The first was the IL. 100 note issued in February, 1969. This note will be followed by others in denominations of IL. 5 and IL. 50. The issue date on the new series is 1968, exactly 10 years following the issue of *Series Bet*.

Words rise to greatness, and, falling, turn profane. What is essential is that language contains no word so slight that the hour of its birth was not one of powerful and awesome self-revelment, a lofty victory of the spirit.

So wrote CHAIM NAHMAN BIALIK (1873-1934) in an essay on language. But Bialik will be remembered as the poet, not the essayist. In Poland, in Russia, in Germany, and finally in Israel, he collected the experiences of life that he told in poems, songs and stories, building his reputation as the greatest Hebrew poet of modern times.

He was born of poor parents in the Ukrainian village of Radi. Orphaned of his father at the age of seven, he was given a strict religious upbringing by his grandfather. At fifteen he went to study at the Volozhin yeshivah, where he remained for a year and a



half. Deeply influenced by the articles of Ahad Ha-Am, he was attracted to the Haskalah and national revival movement. He went to Odessa in 1891 and moved in Jewish literary circles. He married at twenty and worked for some years as book-keeper in his father-in-law's timber business. From 1896—1900, he taught in the Polish town of Sosnowice, later returning to Odessa where he engaged in teaching and publishing and was for six years literary editor of the weekly *Ha-Shiloah*. In 1921 he left Russia for Berlin, where he founded the Devir publishing house, later transferred to Tel-Aviv. He himself settled in Tel-Aviv in 1924, devoting himself to cultural activities and public affairs.



His poetry may be classified into verse expressing the national revival, personal poetry and songs of nature. His national poetry laments the degeneration of the Jewish nation in the Diaspora and the decline of its ancient culture; its inherent reproof is designed to stimulate the nation's latent forces to arise and carve out a new destiny. This poetry is also bitterly critical of the egoism and pettiness pervading Jewish society and the absence of Jewish pride and human dignity at the nation's crucial hour. The most important of these poems are *Be-Ir ha-Haregah* ("In the City of Slaughter"), *Achen Hatzir ha-Am* ("Surely the People is as Grass") and *Davar* ("Word").

His personal poems express a variety of emotions: a lament for a life that has passed without affording any inner satisfaction; man's transience set against the eternity of the universe; the conflict between man's desire for personal happiness and his sense of duty to his people — *Megillat ha-Esh* ("The Scroll of Fire"); man torn between his love for the old, established world and his revolt against all that is decadent in it.

His songs of nature — *Ha-Berechah* ("The Pool"), *Zohar* ("Brilliance"), *Mi-Shirei ha-Horef* ("Of Winter Songs") — are rich in imagery and total expression. His love poems —

Continued on page 31

KEREN HAYESOD: A WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT IN ACTION

by Sylvia Haffner

1920-1970

The Keren Hayesod was founded at the Zionist Conference convened in London in July of 1920 to finance Jewish immigration and settlement in Palestine through funds raised by world Jewry's annual self-taxation.

There were two views expressed at this Conference. One advocated the establishment of an institution of a banking nature that would be charged with the duty of developing activities on economic and commercial foundations alone. The other view claimed that having regard to the popular nature of the Zionist Movement which is based on voluntary activities, it could not be transformed into a business enterprise bereft of a national-pioneering character.

Those who upheld the second view argued that it was possible to advance and implement the upbuilding of the country neither by means of private capital nor on a commercial basis alone. They argued that already in the early stages of the upbuilding work it was necessary to mobilize national capital so as to give the process of the country's economic development a direction that was both desirable and fitting for the needs of the Jewish people and the country.

A third view was expressed at the founding conference of the Keren Hayesod: that one had to obtain the necessary means for the upbuilding through a national loan and not through the collection of contributions from the Jewish masses. This proposal found little support.

After great deliberation, the Conference arrived at the decision to create a fund for the immigration and agricultural settlement - the Keren Hayesod - that would both embrace the advantages inherent in the three above-mentioned proposals and be based on the following two principles:

- 1. That the Keren Heyesod be a uniform, financial institution demanding the participation of all Jews, both Zionists and non-Zionists, and that the resources of the fund be devoted to the implementation of the necessary functions for the establishment of the Jewish National Home and be non-profit making and for the establishment of the foundations for economic enterprises, in close collaboration with private capital.*
- 2. That contributions to Keren Hayesod be in the nature of an annual tax for devolving upon all Jews and that the Keren Hayesod would not accept contributions below a certain fixed minimum.*

Thus the Keren Hayesod was based on the idea of an annual and fixed tax for the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home to be imposed upon every Jew wherever he lived.

The Keren Hayesod was registered on March 23, 1921, as a British company, "A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital". The number of its members may not exceed fifty and they are elected subject to the approval of the Executive of the Zionist Organization which also appoints from these members the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors.

Until the end of 1926, the Head office and all the Departments of the Keren Hayesod were situated in London. Since that date they have been in Jerusalem.

Nine years later, the 16th Zionist Congress established the Jewish Agency with Keren Hayesod as its principal arm. The Constitution of the Jewish Agency (Para. 9) includes the following article in regard to the Keren Hayesod:

"Unless otherwise decided by the Council (of the Jewish Agency for Eretz Israel) the Keren Hayesod shall be the principal financial instrument of the Agency for the supply of its budget."

This arrangement remains in force to the present day, and the Keren Hayesod continues to be the principal financial arm which supplies the budget of the Jewish Agency. It should be noted that in 1939 the United Jewish Appeal was founded in the United States, incorporating the Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal (today the United Israel Appeal-The Jewish Agency for Israel) the Joint Distribution Committee and the National Committee for the Coordination of Aid to Refugees. Since then the Keren Hayesod has been active in all countries under its own name, whereas in the United States the United Jewish Appeal functions.

In 1956, the Keren Hayesod was incorporated in Israel under the Keren Hayesod 1956 Law (*Book of Statutes 195, - 18.1:1956*). In presenting the Law to the Knesset, the Minister of Justice at the time, Mr. P. Rosen said:-

'The purpose of the Law is to accord one of the most important and central institutions of the Zionist Movement, which is at the present registered as a British Company in Great Britain, and which is registered here as a foreign company, the status of an Israeli Company. The purpose of the Law is to accord the Keren Hayesod legal citizenship among the Israeli companies registered in this country.'



1920 - 1948

Keren Hayesod has been instrumental in financing the major developments in Israel's growth, such as the national education network; and the land reclamation and water projects which were vital to the country's agricultural system.

IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION

487,000 immigrants, including 45,000 children brought to Palestine by Youth Aliya, were settled and absorbed into the economy.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT, NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING

257 agricultural settlements were established with a population of 90,000 working some 700,000 dunams of land.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$78,000,000 - 65% from the United States through the United Jewish Appeal; 35% from other countries where Keren Hayesod operated.

1948 - 1970

IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION

1,300,000 immigrants, including 70,000 children brought to Israel by Youth Aliya, became citizens of the States.



AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT, NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING

490 new agricultural settlements and 27 new towns were built; 250,000 new housing units provided permanent homes for over a million new immigrants.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$1,500,000,000 - 75% from the United States through the United Jewish Appeal; 25% from 54 other countries.

GRAND TOTAL OF FUNDS

RAISED 1920-1970

\$1,612,300,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Immigration, absorption and housing 946,200,000

Agricultural settlement 880,200,000

Youth Aliya 143,400,000

Education and

Organization 289,100,000

\$2,258,900,000

The balance of the expenditures not covered by the income of the Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal and the United Jewish Appeal came from additional income sources, such as reparations from Germany; income from

heirless property, collections on account of the repayment of loans from Keren Hayesod funds; the realization of property; special Youth Aliya campaigns; participation by the Government of Israel in agricultural settlement enterprises; and long and medium term loans.

The Keren Hayesod has central committees in 54 countries other than the United States. In some countries there are more than one central committee owing to language differences or other reasons, such as in Belgium and Switzerland. The Head Office in Jerusalem maintains regular contacts with the committees in all parts of the world and sends out representatives to lecture at the opening of campaigns, and in actual fact to direct and conduct the fund-raising campaigns.

Among the founders of the Keren Hayesod were: Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Hillel Zlatopolski and Yitzhak Naiditch. Among the members of its first Board of Directors and its senior staff at the time of its foundation were: Zeev Jabotinsky, Leib Jaffe (who died at his post in March 1948 as the result of an explosion at the Keren Hayesod

Continued on page 32

THE 1-LIRA SCRIP OF THE CHABADNIKS

by Israel E. Herzig

AINA No. 179



One of the fascinating facets of Judaica collecting are the scrip and coupons issued by the various Kibbutzim and Moshavim in Israel. They are issued in lieu of money for use only locally for the personal needs of the Kibbutz members, usually for the purchase of books, tobacco, candy and toys for the children.

A very interesting note recently came into my possession. It is a facsimile of the Bank Israel 1 lira note. It was issued in *Kfar-Chabad*, a newly formed settlement near Lod, sponsored and supported by the Lubavitcher Chassidim, a unique group devoted to *Tora frumkeit* (holiness) and work. They are active worldwide and very much among the youth who are alienated from *yiddishkeit* (identification with Judaism).

The founder of this group was Rabbi

Schneur Zalman of Liady (1748-1812), the Baal Hatanya, a disciple of Bal-Shem-Tov. In his work, Rabbi Zalman set forth the principles of CHABAD which is an acronym of three words:

Knowledge: חכמה

Understanding: בינה

Wisdom: דעה

Hence, they are called the Chabadniks and hence the name of their settlement: *Kfar-Chabad*.

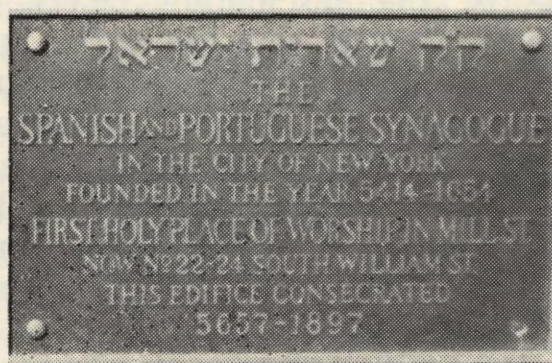
The note is 9x5cm, overprinted in red letters:

HOUSE OF CHABAD
AND TEMPLE YESHIVA

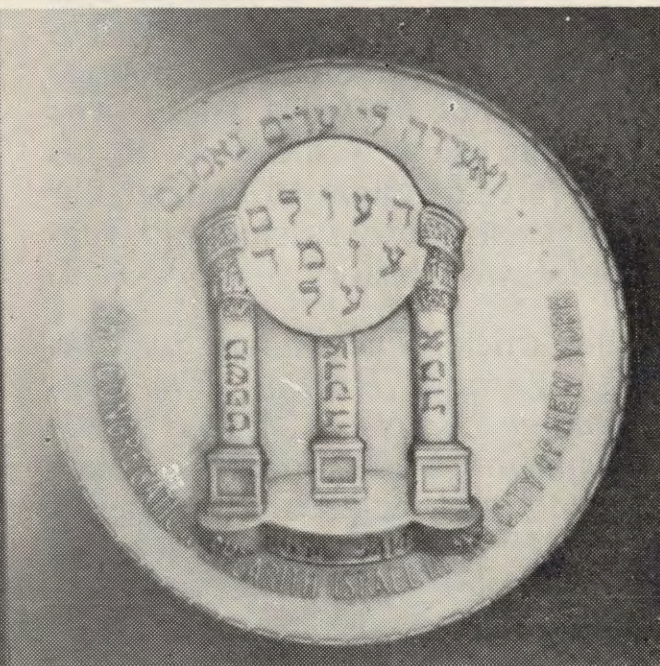
No. 20704 Supporters of the Pious
Liubawitz (red star)
LOD - Village - Chabad

CONGREGATION
FOUNDED IN U.S.
IN 1645 STRIKES MEDAL
TO CELEBRATE 85th BIRTHDAY
OF
REV. DR. DAVID DE SOLA POOL

In studying the Friedenberg Collection of Medals of Jewish historical interest, Edna Fuerth Lemle, political scientist and business woman, observed that two Rabbis of *Congregation Shearith Israel*, of which she is a member, were honored there: the Rev. Gerson Mendes Seixas, patriot of the Revolutionary War, and a founding Trustee of Columbia; and the Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, who ministered to the Congregation from 1877 to 1935. Dr. Mendes succeeded the Rev. Jacques Lyons, who was the Minister of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue from 1839 to 1877. Mrs. Lemle immediately took steps to commission a relief of the Rev. Dr. David de Sola Pool, who came to *Shearith Israel Congregation* in 1907, and is today its Minister Emeritus.



Dr. Pool's medal was struck in celebration of his 85th birthday. It may be noted that he is the third Minister serving the Congregation since 1839, a record in itself. The medal depicts Dr. Pool in his rabbinic robe with the seal of the Sola family at the right. The de Sola seal belongs to one of the



*Top: Spanish and Portugese Synagogue opposite Central Park
Below: Dr. Pool's Medal; the obverse features the seal of the Congregation*

most ancient families with a recorded history in the Sephardic world. It goes back to the Ninth Century in Spain whence after 1492, branches of the family migrated to Portugal, Holland, England, South America, the Islands of Central America to Canada and the United States. They were among the pioneer families settled in these various western countries.

The de Sola seal has at its center a blazing sun above a banner on which is inscribed the first line of the 23rd Psalm, *The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want*. Above the crest, a little

lamb is depicted.

The obverse side of the medal carries the official seal of *Congregation Shearith Israel*, founded in 1645. The seal depicts a globe raised on three pillars, Emet (Truth), Tzedakah (Charity), Mishpat (Justice). The medal may be purchased from AINA for \$5.00 plus 50c postage and handling or from the Synagogue office.

The late Prof. Cecil Roth, an authority on Jewish art, was an advisor to the sculptress, Karen Worth, on the execution of the plaque from which the medal was struck.

ADDED DATA FROM AN AMERICAN COLLECTOR OF PRE-STATE TOKENS

by Dr. Samuel Halperin

Dov Genachowski's articles in *The Shekel* have made seminal contributions to our appreciation of the numismatic tokens of pre-State Israel. The notes which follow respectfully in his footsteps are an effort to expand our knowledge of these fascinating fragments of Jewish history.

In his article, *The Tokens for Students of Yeshivat Hebron*, (*The Shekel*, Volume III, No. 1, Spring 1970) Mr. Genachowski describes one token (the 5 mil) and includes a drawing of another (1000 mils). (*Editor's Note: Other examples provided by the Author were not included because of lack of space.*)

My own collection contains the following seven pieces:

denomination	color of cardboard	handwritten number
1 mil	deep pink	440
5 mil	cream	97
10 mil	bluish	24
50 mil	orange	22
100 mil	white	251
500 mil	deep blue	none
1000 mil	bluish	38

In addition, it should be noted that each token is backstamped in violet ink with a circular rubber seal bearing the

inscription in both Hebrew and English: ("Yeshivat Hebron/Knesset Israel/Jerusalem.") This inscription encircles an opened book of scripture and a menorah radiating light. Several (but not all) of the tokens are also signed in black, handwriting, Hebrew script with an illegible name.

Regarding Mr. Genachowski's article on the tokens of *The Guardians of the City* (*The Shekel*, Volume II, No. 3, Fall 1969) the following listing of eight pieces in my collection are intended to illustrate the diversity of types which characterize these numismatic tokens.

denomination	color of paper
1/2 mil	white
1 mil	white
2 mil	green
5 mil	white
5 mil	yellow
10 mil	blue
50 mil	orange

The 2 mil token in green is found in both perforated and imperforated condition; all of the others are perforated.

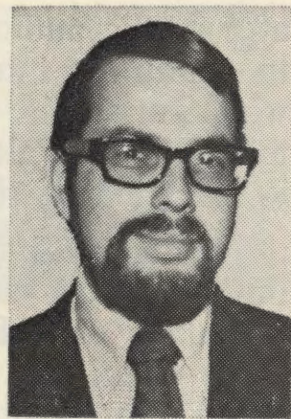
Perhaps other readers of *The Shekel* can document additional values and varieties of these forerunners of contemporary Israeli currency.

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

Judaean Journeys

Part II



The Kaiser and the Dreamer

As a student, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albrecht von Hohenzollern, read Bishop Heber's *Palestine* under the direction of his English tutor. Years later, as Kaiser Wilhelm II, hereditary ruler of Germany, he made a pilgrimage with the Empress Augusta and a large entourage to the Holy Land.

On October 12, 1898 Wilhelm sailed on his private yacht, the Hohenzollern, to Constantinople where he was the Sultan's guest. This was the first stop on his planned trip to Palestine which was still part of the Turkish Empire.

While Wilhelm insisted that there were no political motives to his pilgrimage, he did manage to leave the Turkish capital with a contract to build a harbor in Haidar Pasha, a concession for a German cable between Constanza and Constantinople and a plan for carrying the German-built Anatolian Railway to Baghdad!

The Imperial party travelled by ship to Haifa and then on to Jerusalem by horse. Despite the severe heat, Wilhelm made a spectacular entrance into Jerusalem on October 29th; he was dressed in white, with a gold eagle atop his helmet, mounted on a black charger.

The stated purpose of the trip was to dedicate the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem, built by German Protestants. This church is portrayed on the medal commemorating Wilhelm's pilgrimage.

Wilhelm's plan to visit the Holy Land was known by another group. And after much preparation, a meet-

ing between the Kaiser and these individuals was arranged. Surprisingly, these men were not royalty, nor heads of government; in fact their "government" was still a dream.

The adventurous group, which included a merchant, a lawyer, an engineer and a physician, headed by Theodor Herzl, the father of Zionism. His purpose for meeting the Kaiser privately in Constantinople and then



Herzl meets the Kaiser in Jerusalem in 1898.

at a public audience in Jerusalem was to obtain the intervention of Germany with Turkey in the matter of a protectorate in Palestine (with internationalization of the Holy Places).

In Constantinople the Kaiser generously offered, after the private conversation with Herzl, *"Tell me in a word what I am to ask of the Sultan"*. Herzl's immediate reply was *"A Chartered Company - under German protection."* And then on to Jerusalem.

Dr. Herzl toured the Holy City of Jerusalem where there was much squalor and fever, but he had a dream to *"build an airy, comfortable, properly severed, brand new city around the Holy Places"*. At this time there were only 45,000 Jews living within a total population of 500,000 in Palestine.

The Kaiser consecrated the Church of the Redeemer on October 31; two days later the historic audience took place in a tent at the Kaiser's encampment in Ramleh.

After Herzl read his paper, Wilhelm stated that, *"The settlements I have seen, the German as well as those of your own people, may serve as samples of what can be done with the country. There is room here for everyone . . . Your movement, with which I am thoroughly familiar, is based on a sound, healthy idea."*

The Kaiser was, unfortunately, less obliging in his public statement in Palestine than his private statements in Constantinople. However, in his diary, Herzl seemed pleased that Wilhelm did not proclaim a protectorate in Jerusalem, for he felt that, in the future, the Jews would *"have had to pay the most usurious interest"* for it.

To round out his "ecumenicalism", the Kaiser ended his speech to the Sultan of Turkey at his last stop, Damascus, with these words: *"Let me assure His Majesty the Sultan and the three hundred millions of Moslems who, in whatever corner of the globe they may live, revere in him their Kalif, that the German Emperor will ever be their friend."*

This promise had cost the Turkish people sixteen million pounds in expenses for the Kaiser's journey.

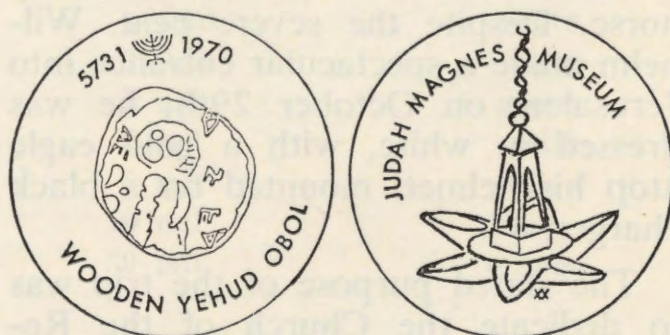
The medal illustrated is bronze, 40 mm.; similar specimens are known in silver, 35mm. The obverse shows busts of the Kaiser and the Empress facing right. The inscription is *"WILHELM II KAISER AUGUSTA VIKTORIA KAISERIN V. DEUTSCHLAND"*.

The reverse features the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and the legend. *"ZUR ERINNERUNG AN DIE KAISERREISE JERUSALEM 1898"* (In memory of the Emperor's trip to Jerusalem 1898).

THIRD YEAR OF MAGNES WOODEN TOKENS

The 1970 Wooden Yehud Obol issued by the Judah Magnes Museum features two star attractions of "The Jewish Museum of the West". This marks the third year of wooden Jewish tokens; previously issued were the original 1968 Wooden Shekel and the 1969 Wooden Prutah, each in limited editions of 1000 each.

The obverse of the 1970 token features a representation of the unique Yehud Obol, a tiny silver coin issued in the Persian province of Judaea sometime after the return of the Jews from the Babylonian exile (440 BC) and before the conquest of Alexander



the Great (332 BC). Yehud was the Persian name for Judaea. The original coin; now on display at the Magnes Museum, contains an ancient sign of royalty — the Tet symbol — and was probably minted for use as payment

Continued on page 18

Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.



There is nothing like a coin convention to meet and greet your old numismatic friends and the ANA is by far the best spot to do so. Here come everyone from the "greats" to the novice to see what is happening and what will happen in the numismatic world.

It was my great pleasure at the ANA convention to meet with Morris Bram, Yitzhak Avni, Ephraim Levy, as well as others. I had an opportunity to meet with them, as busy as they were, several times. Also on hand was Joseph Freedberg of No. Carolina, who participates in the numismatic trips to Israel, and it was a pleasure to make his acquaintance. Dr. Cary Younger of PANart in Burbank, California, was also on hand, making plans with Avni for future Israel cover releases.

Many decisions and friendships are made at these conventions and I recommend them to all of you. Next year the ANA will convene in the nation's capital, Washington, D. C.

I have mentioned in the past First Day-First Issue covers as they pertain to Israel. So much has happened since I last wrote about them that I wanted to supply additional information.

The hobby all started when John Miles Baker of Northfield, Ohio, on March 24, 1964, registered two letters with the new Kennedy half dollars, which he had obtained on that day of release, and the new hobby was born.

Baker wanted these for his own collection as a souvenir of the momentous occasion and a story that appeared about his covers caught the imagination of collectors. When Baker saw the interest of the collecting public, he decided he would try his hand at producing other covers to take care of historic events, all tied in with coins to be issued, as well as stamps.

The successful and happy marriage of two great hobbies has been consummated and now is known under such names as - Certified Coins; PNC (Philatelic - Numismatic Combination); Post-Marked History; Initial Issues. These are among the offspring of the merger.

Originally there was only one producer, the 99 Company of San Clemente, California. Now there are more than 35 based in all parts of the world.

From the very first issue of the Israeli covers, they have caught on with the collecting public and have been the most popular in this new hobby: with the exception of the Moon Cover, one of the most important events in world history.

In 1968, the 99 Company produced covers using the specimen sets of Israel of that year and today this set is one of the most highly sought after, with only 1,050 sets produced. At the end of 1968, the 1969 covers were also produced with specimen coins, in larger quantities, and these also proved extremely popular.

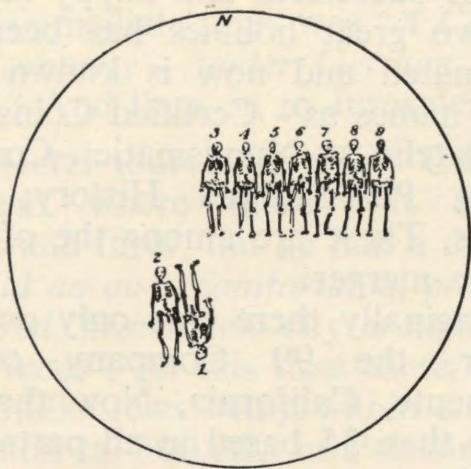
The 1970 sets, which were produced by the same company, were sold out within a few days and are very desirable at the present time.

The only other company to produce Israeli covers to date is PANart of No. Hollywood, California. They produced a Pidyon Haben commemorative cover. This was the first time there was a simultaneous release of the stamp and coin for this country, the first official First Day Cover ever issued for a PNC.

This same company also produced Levi Eshkol Commemorative Covers. The medal used was in both silver and bronze, designed by the famous Ralph

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TENNESSEE BURIAL GROUNDS CREATE FUROR



Bat Creek mound, #3 Loudon County, Tenn.
1885.

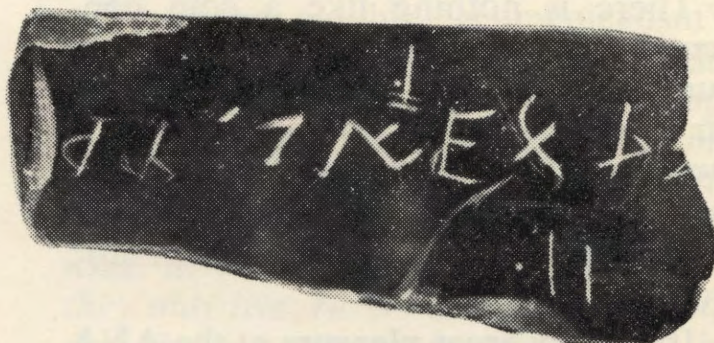
A stone found in 1885 by a Smithsonian Institution archaeological team in a burial mound in Bat Creek, Tennessee, may be evidence of a Jewish settlement on the American continent 1000 years before Columbus, states a story released by *United Press* in mid-October.

A recent translation by Dr. Cyrus H. Gordon, professor of Mediterranean History at Brandeis University of five letters in the writing style of Canaan reads: *for the land of Judah*.

Roman coins found in Tennessee and adjacent states and Jewish coins dating to the Bar Kokhba Rebellion, 132-135AD, have been found by farmers around Lewisville, Hopkinsville and Clay City, Kentucky.

The evidence was uncovered by Dr. Joseph D. Mahan Jr. of the Columbus (Georgia) Museum of Arts and Crafts who sent a photograph of the stone and inscription to Dr. Gordon for translation.

"The archaeological circumstances of the discovery rule out any chance of forgery or fraud and the inscription suggests a migration of Jews from the Near East probably to escape the long



The fourth letter is a WAW, the sixth letter of the alphabet, in a form limited to the Hebrew coins, particularly those of the two rebellions against Rome, in 66-70 A.D. and 132-135 A.D., respectively. Therefore, it is likely that the final letter is to be taken as DALED and the inscription would mean "for (the land of) Judah." The spelling is Hebrew rather than Phoenician, confirming the distinctively Jewish nature of the text.

hand of Rome after the disastrous Jewish defeats in 70 and 135 AD", said Dr. Gordon according to the *United Press*.

Within a few days, a follow-up story by *Associated Press* refers to a little known group of 200 Melungeons, mostly farmers in Hancock County, Tennessee. This story identifies Dr. Gordon as a proponent of a theory that this group are descendants of Mediterranean and possibly Jewish descent.

One theory holds that the Melungeons are descendants of a group of shipwrecked Portuguese sailors who wandered from North Carolina to Tennessee in the 1600s. Melungeons have been identified with farming in the area for 300 years.

(Editor's Note: AINA members in the area of Tennessee may contact Mr. Claude Collins, a Melun living in Sneedville, Tennessee, for possible first-hand contact with a direct descendant of the group.)

The ALEPH BETH Page

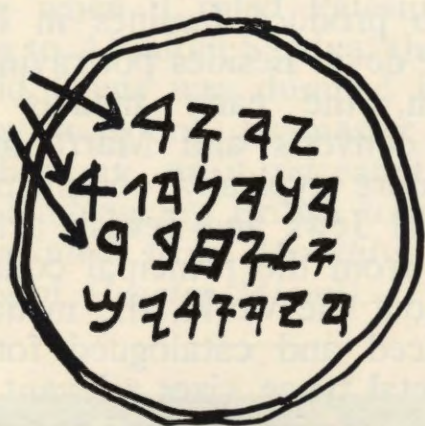
...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. Is there any easy way to tell the difference between the small bronze pruta of Judah Aristobulus (Yehudah Aristobulus), Reif. 13 M. 28, whose obverse (an inscription surrounded by wreath and reverse of a double cornucopiae with pomegranate) is the same as the more common and inexpensive coins of Alexander Jannaeus and John Hyrcanus? I cannot read the ancient script and do not want to pay \$150 for a coin that could only be worth \$10 B. T., L. A., Calif.

A. Yes. Look at the inscription. The last letter on the left (remember that in coin description it is YOUR left) of the top three lines looks like closed four, closed four and backward P respectively. This combination of letters is not found on any other. Good hunting.



Q. A recent article in THE SHEKEL mentioned "false shekels". Are these counterfeit or replicas of the shekels of the Jewish War? R. F., Shenman Oaks, Cal.

A. No. These pieces are generally cast pieces of low content silver or base metals. Some of these go back hundreds of years. In Erasmus Froelich's *Annales Regum Et Rerum Syriae* (Vienna, 1754) a warning is given to collectors on the "modern Hebrew coins" which attempt to imitate the

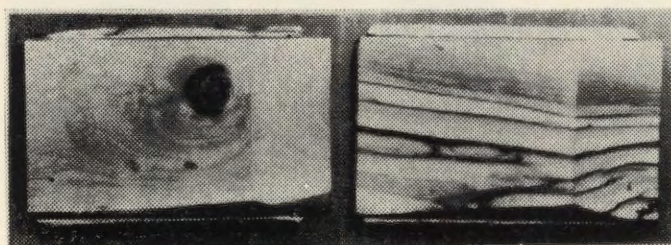
true shekels. The inscriptions are usually the same or similar to the ancient coins except that the lettering is modern square Hebrew and no date is given. Leaves and branches replace the pomegranates. In the reissued *Jewish Coins* by T. Reinach, there is a special appendix by G. F. Hill on these pieces.

Q. Is a coin that is over four hundred years old considered an ancient coin? T. F. - Atlanta, Ga.

A. No. The line of demarcation is 500 A. D.

Q. At a recent coin show, a dealer told me that he could tell a proof 1958 10th Anniversary commemorative without even taking the coin out of the box. With all the controversy in identifying this coin, I am sure than he was ribbing me. Am I right? S. K., Cleveland, O.

A. A coin can never be identified by the box or holder it came in. For example, the 1970 Mikveh Israel Coin in BU condition was issued in a 2x2 plastic holder. The proof coin was issued in the same colored plastic which measured 2 1/2 x 3 1/4. Switching the coins in the holders will not make the BU a proof issue and visa versa. There are greater differences in the two coins than the *mem* in the proof issue. The 1958 did not have a *mem*.



Proof

Regular

If the 1958 commemorative 5IL coin was the same one that came in the olivewood box then the dealer is tell-

ing you the truth! The boxes for both the regular and proof were both the same size and shape. The characteristic "tiger skin" grain was missing from the olivewood tops of the boxes containing the proof coins. Some had burls (see photo) but I never saw a proof 1958 5IL commemorative that was purchased and held from original issuance that was not in the plain non "tiger stripe" grained box. Incidentally, the blue round gummed sticker that was to be glued to the recessed inner top, was included and distributed with the boxed coin. The collector wet the back and affixed the identifying Israel's Tenth Anniversary label by himself. This is why so many of the boxed 10th Anniversary coins have no sticker in the upper recess.

Q. Can you identify the enclosed coin? It seems to have been struck in an Arabic country. F. S., Miami Beach, Fla.



A. This unusual coin was issued by the Jews of Iran on the occasion of Rosh Hashonah of 1965. The portrait is of the Shah. The inscription in Arabic:

For the 25th Year of (Islamic) Reign of Riza Shah Pohlevi may he be exalted. The inscription in Hebrew: Rosh Hashonah 1965 Committee of the Jewish Community of Iran.

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NEW STUDY OF JEWISH

MEDALS PUBLISHED IN U. S.

The first, definitive study of this kind ever done, *JEWISH MEDALS From the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon (1503-1815)* was written by Daniel M. Friedenberg, Curator of Coins and Medals, The Jewish Museum, New York. The volume covers the period from the first appearance of a Jewish medal in 1503 to the year 1815 when Napoleon fell from power and, with the development of a modern nationalist state, the entrance of Jews into Western and Central European culture produced a flood of such medals.

Daniel M. Friedenberg's study reflects the tensions of pre-emancipation Jewish life, and chronicles the slow rise of Jewish emancipation in a series of fascinating pieces. The *Corn Jew Medals* exemplify the prevalent early notion that Jewish merchants hoarded grain to produce famines in leagues with the devil. Besides portraying anti-Semitism, the early medals shows Jewish converts and Marranos, and later, more typically commemorated individual Jews and Jewish activities. Chosen from the principal collections throughout the world, the medals are reproduced and catalogued for variants, metal types, sizes relevant literature, and location, as well as the identity, only infrequently known, of the medalist. There is a discussion of miscellanea and those Spanish and German medals that former scholars categorized as "Jewish" because of the names.

This catalog, the first of its type, not only clarifies a new field of research but graphically penetrates three centuries of European social and political contact with Jews. The publisher is Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 419 Park Ave. South, N. Y. 10016.

AINA MEMBERS MARRIED AT ANA

The conventions of the American Numismatic Association have been the scene of numerous joyous scenes and triumphs but none as heart-stirring as the marriage of AINA member Alice Moon (#2560) to Steve Penzes at the August ANA Convention in St. Louis. The ceremony was held at the close of the Elongated Collectors' meeting. Photographs of the unusual and happy event were featured in the Sept. 16 issue of *Coin World*.

Congratulations to the couple from AINA. From Moon to Penzes . . . but still #2560, Alice.

WELL-MINDED ISRAELI URGES COIN SEARCH

Jerusalem Post, Sept. 7th — A young Israeli businessman believes an ancient water well in Taiyiba Israel, is the resting place of one million dollars in gold coins of the Turkish Ottoman empire, when it ruled Palestine. According to Absalom Saadya, the hoard of Gold Coins was dumped into the well by a young paymaster in the Turkish army, as it retreated in the path of advancing British forces.

(Reprinted from *Monthly Bulletin of INS of Greater Miami*).



An exhibit for the Judah L. Magnes Museum was made by Mr. Gordon Greene. Reviewing it are Mr. Magnes and Mrs. Taller. It was shown at the International Coin Show in California.

AINA AT ANA



Thomas W. Becker, president of the International Numismatic Collector Society receives a gift volume of bound issues of *The Shekel* from Morris Bram, president of AINA as a example of inter-organization friendship.



AINA members Joe Freedland of Wilmington, N.C. and Maurice N. Gould of Sepulveda, California (right) share a moment during the hectic days of the ANA Convention in St. Louis.

AINA'S THIRD STUDY TOUR SET

The meetings you will have with the Israel Numismatic Society of Tel Aviv; with the Numismatists of Haifa; with the experts at the Kadman Museum; and finally, the special reception with officers of the Israel Government the night before you leave . . . these alone make this two-week trip worth the price of \$700.00 per person.

That in addition you will visit Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem . . . sight-see at the most momentous sights and sites in the history of civilization, these are the bonus experiences awaiting participants in the Third Annual AINA Israel Study Tour. The dates have now been confirmed for a Wednesday departure from New York on March 10; and a Tuesday afternoon arrival back at New York on March 23.

All AINA members have now received the invitation to participate; the deposit to reserve a seat is \$100.00 per person. You can cancel and get a full refund even up to six weeks before departure, if necessary.

Tours of Roman ruins and today's kibbutzim. Tours of the major and minor cities and to the *Galilee* . . . to *Massada* . . . even to Qumran where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* were found. The internationally acclaimed *Dan Hotels*, the *Desert Inn* at Beersheba as well as five nights at the *King David Hotel*: this is indeed the dream trip you have thought about for years.

There will be enough numismatics for the most ardent collector . . . and enough sightseeing for the most active tourist. There are days for leisure, for shopping, for activities away from the group as well as planned affairs with the group. With the experience of the past two trips behind the organizers, this will be the finest Study Tour that has ever been sponsored.

The Isram Travel people are experienced in handling guided tours to Israel; they have sent hundreds of thousands of visitors to Israel before you. Your check of deposit for

Continued on page 31

WOODEN TOKEN FROM MAGNES

Continued

of the Jewish Temple Tax. This coin is the only specimen of its type to be seen in the United States; fewer than a dozen coins issued in the Holy Land during this period are known to exist.

A small nine branched Chanukah lamp, dividing the Jewish and Christian dates of 5731 and 1970, is shown at the top of the Wooden Yehud Obol's obverse; the denomination is shown below.

The reverse depicts another unique specimen in the museum's collection—a six pointed brass Sabbath lamp from the fourteenth century. This lamp was excavated in Deutz, near Cologne, one of the oldest settlements of Jews in Germany. Very few Jewish ceremonial objects of that time have survived. Dr. Guido Schoenberger of the Jewish Museum in New York considers this arti-

cle "the most important example of the star lamp of the fourteenth century in existence."

The Wooden Yehud Obol was designed by Mel Wacks, whose monogram is found on the reverse. Wacks, Numismatic Consultant to the Magnes Museum, is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Israel Numismatic Association and a regular contributor to *The Shekel*.

The cost of the 1970 Wooden Obol is 75c each, \$1 for two. Very few original 1968 Wooden Shekels and 1968 Wooden Prutahs remain available as part of the complete three piece set, priced at \$2.75. Checks should be made payable to the Judah Magnes Museum and mailed to Mel Wacks, 20 Garden Circle, Syosset, New York 11791.

Jewish Minters and Engravers in World Currency

by Daniel M. Friedenberg

Curator of Coins and Medals

The Jewish Museum of New York

The development of Zionism among Jews during the latter part of the 19th century led to a marked increase of interest in the coins of the old Jewish homeland. Research indicated that these coins fell into distinct groups. The earliest group, and by far the rarest, are the Yehud coins, the name given by the Persians to their Judean province. After the revolt of the Maccabees against Greek tyranny, the native Hasmonean rulers issued their own currency. With the coming of the Romans, their puppet Herod and his successors struck currency as well, "of the Jews but not Jewish." Thereafter, during the First Revolt against Rome, the regained Jewish authority produced the famous shekels (as well as half and quarter shekels), the pride of any collector of Jewish antiquities. The last group is the silver and bronze money issued by Bar Kokhba during the Second Revolt—of amazingly high aesthetic standards—a witness to the death throttle of the Second Commonwealth.

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Jews naturally feel that almost two thousand years passed before coins were again issued by a Jewish authority. It is logical to assume that the vast stretch of time between 135 and 1927 of the Common Era, that is between the suppression of the Bar Kokhba Revolt and the first revival of Jewish currency in Palestine by the English as mandatory power, was void of all currency of Jewish interest.

This seems true insofar as we know of the two curious Jewish kingdoms or principalities which existed after the destruction of Judea. They are Khazaria and the independent center of the Falashas in northern Ethiopia.

The Khazars, a Turkish people, settled in the 7th century between the Black and Caspian Seas. Sometime before 800 the king and nobility converted to Judaism, followed by a considerable part of the general populace in the next century. The Jewish Khazar kingdom lasted several hundred years. Toward the 10th century it was in decline, with the main provinces seized by the Russians. Only the Crimea remained to the Khazars, and this territory was conquered at the beginning

of the 11th century. But it can be said without reasonable doubt that for over 200 years an independent Jewish kingdom flourished in what is now southern Russia.

Obviously, the money produced in Khazaria would be coinage of a Jewish nation. Yet almost nothing is known of it, and the currency of this Judiazed people remains a numismatic mystery. The Khazars were said to control silver mines in the Caucasus, from which their troops were paid.¹ They also engaged in extensive trade: Benjamin of Tudela, the famed Jewish traveller, met merchants of Khazaria in Constantinople and Alexandria as late as the 12th century.² Such activity could not have been supported alone by primitive barter.

The question of Khazar money is still inconclusive. E. von Zambaur, a well-known German numismatist, claims they struck imitations of Arab coinage and that many such coins found in Sweden and Russia originated in Khazar mints.³ This theory has been attacked by others. We do know that there is no native Khazar money in the sense of coins bearing the imprint of national kings or symbols; but even establishing the authenticity of the Arab imitations would add an interesting chapter to the history of Jewish coinage.

The case of the Falashas is wrapped in even deeper silence. This isolated group of Negro Jews, whose remnants still exist, once formed a powerful kingdom. At its height the Falasha territory included perhaps one-third of modern Ethiopia.⁴ As a politically independent people, the Falashas had a distinct historic existence for some thousand years (with intermittent periods of subjugation), terminated only in the 17th century when their heroic chief Gedeon was killed.

Within this vast stretch of time, it might be expected that the Falashas

would have issued coins in some form or another—for example, in the nearby sacred city of Aksum coins were issued up to the 8th century with inscriptions in Greek as well as the native tongue of Gheez.⁵ (Some rare Aksumitic coins are stamped “Israel” and “Negus Israel” in Greek, but they are also decorated with Byzantine crosses.) For lack of information, therefore, we must assume that the Falasha culture was too primitive to need coinage in those forgotten centuries. Our unique source of information is the royal chronicles of the kings of Ethiopia, and we only know of battles and war, not of commerce and coinage.

Aside from the Khazars and Fajashas, there is one odd “Jewish state” which did produce money. This involves the strange case of Julius Popper, dating from less than a century ago.⁶ The history of Popper appears in not one of the standard textbooks of Argentine history and yet represents a vivid, though admittedly minor, episode in that country’s development. Popper, a Romanian Jewish adventurer, arrived in Argentina during the 1880s. He moved to the extreme south, to the sparsely settled land of Tierra del Fuego, where he created a vast feudal-type principality.

In 1889 Popper issued gold coins (as well as stamps), weighing one and five grams respectively. The one gram coin is inscribed “El Paramo”, which means “a high and cold region” in Spanish. The five gram coin is inscribed “Lavaderos de Oro del Sur”, or “Washers of Gold of the South”, referring to washing gold from the river sands, the source of Popper’s wealth. These pieces, greatly in demand among numismatists, are the only gold coins ever issued by a Jew before the emergence of modern Israel. We have samples of each type at the Jewish Museum of New York. Inci-

1. D. M. Dunlop, *The History of the Jewish Khazars*, Princeton Univ. Press, 1954, p. 227

2. *Ibid*, p. 220

3. *Ibid*, p. 231

4. Daniel M. Friedenberg, “The Decline and Fall of the Falashas,” *Judaism*. Summer, 1956

5. David Buxton, *Travels in Ethiopia*, London, 1951; p. 121

6. Bruno Kisch, “Judaica in Nummis,” *Historia Judaica*, Vol. 7 (1945), p. 143

dently, Popper was arrested by the Argentine authorities and committed suicide at Buenos Aires in 1893.

Though no Jewish state coins can properly be said to have been struck between the Bar Kokhba Revolt and the British mandate in Palestine, there are two categories of currency of Jewish interest. The first is coinage issued by Jewish mint masters, either directly employed by the state or as private lessees. Perhaps most interesting in this field is the large number of European coins stamped with Hebrew inscriptions or with the names of initials in Hebrew of these Jewish minters.⁷ The second category, whose origin is relatively recent, consists of coins designed or engraved by Jews for national mints.

There is some evidence, though without clear documentation, to indicate that Jews were mint masters in Christian Spain by the 11th century.⁸ We know that, both under Moslem and Christian rule, Jews rose to top financial positions and had important administrative power over the mints. This was especially true in Castile, where as early as the 12th century Alfonso VIII (1158-1214) chose Joseph ben Solomon as his treasurer.⁹ Perhaps the most amazing episode of this Castilian period occurred in 1287 when Sancho IV for two years surrendered to Abraham el Barchilon (the Barcelonian) practically all the revenue of the kingdom, including the concession to mint the coinage in the realm.¹⁰ In the next century, Alfonso XI of Castile gave the mint concession

to Don Samuel Aben Huacar - (Ibn Wakar), who deliberately used it to debase the coinage and thus caused violent feelings against the Jews. This in turn led to Don Samuel's death under torture.¹¹ During this same period, Pedro IV of neighboring Aragon-Catalonia gave control of the royal mint to a Jewish company.¹²

The Jews of Western Europe in the medieval period, excepting Spain, were less influential than those in Central Europe. Though we would expect Jewish mint masters in Italy at this time—for Italy was probably unique in Europe in the sense that Jews were never absent from the entire peninsula throughout its long history—this does not seem to be the case. Jewish encyclopedias state that a certain Gideon was a minter at Milan in the 10th century, but we now believe this to be a myth handed down in credulity from one volume to the next. Dr. Cecil Roth, the foremost authority on Italian Jewry, states that with one very minor exception no Jew has ever been an Italian mint master.¹³

On the contrary, French records indicate the earliest recorded example of a Jewish mint master in all Europe. It is almost a certainty that one of the masters of the mint to King Clotaire of Burgundy, who issued the royal coins at Chalon-sur-Saone around 555 C.E., was a Jew. The case has been explored fully by the Vicomte d'Amecourt, specialist on Merovingian money, and decided in the affirmative.¹⁴ "The Jew Priscus", who coined some of the most attractive money of this period with his partner Domnolus,

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7. Not included in this study are the many dozens of Christian medals, particularly from the 16th through 18th centuries, inscribed with the Name of God in Hebrew letters. These merely attested to the revival of Hebrew learning in Protestant countries such as England, Holland and Germany, and not to any Jewish interest or activity. The same thing is true for certain coins, such as those of Christian IV of Denmark, likewise stamped in Hebrew.
 8. Max Grunwald, *Vienna* (The Babenberg Dukes), Jewish Publication Society of America, Phila., 1936, p. 2
 9. Maurice H. Harris, *Mediaeval Jews*, Bloch Publishing Co., N.Y., 1929, p. 108
 10. Abraham A. Neuman, *The Jews in Spain*, Vol. II, Jewish Publication Society of America, Phila., 1942, p. 245.
 11. *Ibid*, p. 252
 12. *Ibid*, p. 237
 13. Statement personally made by Dr. Roth to the author
 14. Vicomte G. de Ponton d'Amecourt, "Description raisonnee des Monnaies merovingiennes de Chalon-sur-Saone," *Annuaire de la Societe francaise de Numismatique et d'Archeologie* (Tome IV), Paris, 1873

was also a favorite goldsmith and designer of jewelry for King Chilperic, who succeeded Clotaire.

The sole argument against this hypothesis is the existence of another Priscus in the same period, a bishop of nearby Lyons—bishops were often moneyers at this time and it likewise appears that Domnolus, the fellow minter with Priscus, became a bishop later in life.

After weighing all the evidence pro and con, Vicomte d'Amecourt concludes "these texts seem to indicate quite clearly" that the mint master was the Jew Priscus. He adds that there was nothing contradictory for a Jew to be a mint master in this period, since moneyers were often goldsmiths, a favorite Jewish profession. In fact, d'Amecourt points out that at Macon, near Chalon, and precisely in the time of Priscus, there was a mint master named Juse, a name corresponding in the dialect to Joseph (like Jose in Spanish), and strange to all but Jews in the Gallo-Roman area. d'Amecourt feels that other mint masters named Jaco and Osias, operating in this century, were Jews for the same reason of nomenclature.

The small medieval community of English Jews was expelled in 1290, only to return some 350 years later in the time of Oliver Cromwell. In the early period they bore an importance in that country far beyond what their numbers might indicate. In fact, the 12th century Aaron of Lincoln, the wealthiest person in England, was a precursor of the Rothschilds. The Jews were often Treasury agents, making advances at interest to the Crown on the security of the local taxation. As was natural, this close relation brought them into the realm of mint matters. The records are not too clear, but there is some evidence that in the 12th century Jews may have managed mints. A find of 6,000 "short-cross" silver pennies at Eccles indicates that several moneyers might have been Jews.¹⁵ Names on the coins include Beneit (Benedict) of London, Isac of

Everwic (York), Samuel of Cant (Canterbury) and Simon of Cice (Chichester). The evidence is inconclusive in the records. On the other hand, Biblical names among Christians were not uncommon and minters also had to swear an oath of fealty which included a Christian pledge that a Jew could not take. But then again, in 1181 three Jews at Winchester were apparently fined for coining money.¹⁶ More evidence will be required before the fact of Jewish minters operating in England previous to the Expulsion in 1290 can definitely be stated.

When we move to Central Europe, Jewish participation in these matters is clearly established. Our knowledge, indeed, precedes the Christian epoch.

Jewish army purveyors operated with the Roman legions in Germany and Central Europe, staying on as traders after the spread of Christianity. The Church's prohibition of interest and the multi-ethnic nature of the Holy Roman Empire gave them exceptional opportunities, magnified by the fact that they were outside the formal structure of feudal society.

As a result, early trade routes dominated by Jewish merchants were soon established from Germany to Bohemia and to Italy, as well as further East. These Jewish traders formed a homogeneous group, both for mutual advantage and protection, and were the obvious link in the primitive international monetary society.

In the 11th centuries the economy of Western Europe was transformed from a barter to a money system. The right to mint money had passed from the Emperor to the Estates of the Holy Roman Empire, each prince and bishop now possessing the power to set up his own money and monetary standards. The special talents of the Jews through experience and contacts created an affinity to these mint matters. To administer financial affairs, it was necessary to know the international money market, to have connections to buy metals and to circulate the coins.

15. Joseph Jacobs, *The Jews of Angevin England*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y. and London, 1893, pp. 392-396

16. *Ibid*, p. 73

Another facet that brought the Central European Jews close to mintage was their special relation to royalty. In this period, about 10 per cent of a king's income was derived through Jewish money lending, and it was most often the surest form of revenue. This also created a personal intimacy related to the field of money.

Vienna was an early cross-roads of trade. Already by the early 13th century a Responsum issued by the Viennese Rabbi Isaac ben Moses prohibited a Jewish master of the mint from allowing his Christian employees to stamp money on the Sabbath.¹⁷ In fact, the first record of a Viennese Jew is that of a mint master, Schlom (Solomon), who operated mints for Duke Leopold V of Austria (1177-1194) both in Vienna and the nearby suburb of Vienna-Neustadt.¹⁸ Schlom became so powerful, he was killed by Crusaders passing through Vienna in 1196. Indicating the international connections involved in this trade, there is some evidence that Schlom had emigrated from Spain.¹⁹

Indeed, the Austrian Jewish relation to the treasury was so close under the Babenberg dukes that in 1222 a special decree was enforced by the nobility which stipulated that Counts of the Treasury and Officers of the Mint had to be noblemen and under no circumstances could be Jews.²⁰ But Ottakar II, barely forty years later, ignored the decree and again employed the Jews as masters of the mint.²¹

Perhaps most astounding is that some dukes and bishops in the heart

of the Holy Roman Empire gave Jewish mint masters the right to stamp the coins they issued with their initials and even their names in Hebrew. Bracteates were issued between 1170 and 1180 at Wetterau—the old German princely state of Hesse—with the name “David Hacoheh” clearly stamped in Hebrew.²² Otto the Rich (1156-1190), Margrave of Meissen—a city near Dresden—employed a Jewish mint master, who stamped the bracteates with the name “Gerson” in Hebrew, according to one source.²³ (Nearby, at Luzice and Pegau, Jews also operated the mints for the local nobility. But there is no record of Hebrew on their coins.) A 12th century bracteate showing Count von Mansfeld of Saxony has an indecipherable Hebrew inscription.²⁴ Also from Saxony in this same period is a bracteate showing Duke Bernhard I with what seems to be Hebrew letters.²⁵

A very special example is that of Bishop Otto at the ecclesiastical court of Wuerzburg (south central Germany), who had a Jewish mint master by the name of Jechial for quite a few years early in the 13th century.²⁶ The name “Jechial” is clearly marked in Hebrew on numerous bracteates: we have two in the collection of the Jewish Museum of New York. The same was true in the ecclesiastical court at Treves, where Jews ran the mint for almost a century, from about 1260 to 1350.²⁷ It is obvious from the widely separate areas that this was a common practice throughout the German petty states from the 12th through the 14th centuries.

17. Max Grunwald, op. cit., p. 3

18. I. E. Scherer, *Die Rechtsverhältnisse der Juden in den Deutsch — Oesterr Landen*, Duncker & Humblot, Leipzig, 1901, p. 121. Also Max Grunwald, op. cit., p. 2

19. Max Grunwald, op. cit., p. 2

20. Ibid, p. 6

21. Ibid, p. 15

22. Julius Cahn, “Ein Wetterauer Dynastenbrakteat mit hebraischer Umschrift,” *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, XXXIII (1923), p. 91

23. Julius Cahn, op. cit., p. 91. Also Bruno Kisch, op. cit., p. 146

24. Julius Aronius, *Regesten zur Geschichte der Juden in Frankischen und Deutschen Reiche bis zum Jahre 1273*, Leonhard Simon, Berlin, 1902, No. 351

25. Ibid, No. 389

26. *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, Funk and Wagnalls Co., 1907, “Minters”

27. Marvin Lowenthal, *The Jews of Germany*, Jewish Publication Society of America, Phila. 1936, p. 60



The name *Jechial* is clearly marked in Hebrew on numerous bracteates. This silver piece is 5/8" in diameter.

The activity of Jewish mint masters in Bohemia is slight, though more evident in the earliest days. Several already operated in the 10th century, but stamped their names in Latin, not Hebrew, on the coins. Often, indeed, the names were distorted in transliteration — examples are *Nacub*, *Omeritz* and *Mizleta*.²⁸ In the 12th century the Bohemian King Wladislaus II (1158-1173) had a Jewish mint master in Lusatia, that part of present East Germany between the Elbe and Oder Rivers; a bracteate with Hebrew letters in the center is known.²⁹ Then we hear nothing more until the 16th century, when a Prague Jew, Isaac Meir, struck coins for the Royal Mint in Wroclaw (Breslau) in 1546-1549.³⁰

In Hungary, their activity was much greater. The history of Hebrew on coins of Hungary is a fascinating by-path in general European numismatics. The Magyar leaders accepted Christianity in 975 but, in fact, only the court became Christian, the people still being largely pagan (much as the Khazar leaders in the Crimea became

Jewish two centuries earlier). There were two pagan risings in the 11th century. Bela IV (1235-1270) brought in Cuman pagan colonists in such vast numbers that they almost overwhelmed the Christian population. Bela, in fact, married his son Stephen (Istvan) — later Stephen V — to a Cuman girl. The result was that the Holy See launched a Hungarian Crusade to prevent the lapse of the kingdom into paganism and Stephen's son, Ladislaus IV, perished in the conflict.³¹

Given this background, it can be seen that these early Hungarian rulers had no objection to Jewish mint masters. An unsubstantiated claim states that around 1063 Queen Anastasia authorized certain Jewish merchants to coin their own silver money.³² When we got to the reign of Andreas II (1205-1235), we are on firmer ground. A study of Hungarian coins indicates Hebrew appearing on a coin of this king.³³ His son Bela IV, and grandson Stephen V, have their currency studded with Latin phrases interspersed with Hebrew letters—the latter apparently standing for the initials of Jewish mint masters whose names are long forgotten. The Budapest Jewish Museum exhibits a half dozen examples.³⁴ The official coins of 13th century Hungary, a recognized Christian state, are marked with such anomalies as the Latin Church words "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God) counterstamped by Hebrew "peh" or the inscription "Moneta Ungarie" (Hungarian Money) supported by a Hebrew "aleph". Almost three centuries later, in the reign of Louis (Lajos) II, a Jewish mint master is again reported, but there is no indication of any Hebrew stampings at this time.³⁵

To be continued.

28. Information received from George Weyr, head of Coin Galleries, N.Y.C.

29. Julius Cahn, op. cit., p. 91

30. *Prague Ghetto in the Renaissance Period*, The State Jewish Museum in Prague, 1965, pp. 22-25

31. *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, Fourteenth Edition, "Hungary," pp. 903 and 904

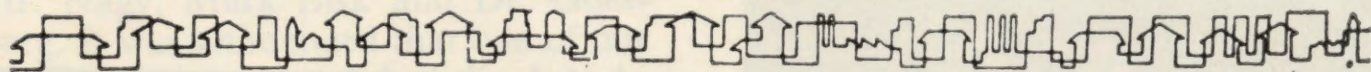
32. *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, "Minters," p. 577

33. Ladislaus Rethy and Gunther Probszt, *Corpus Nummorum Hungariae*, Graz. 1967

34. Examples noted by author when visiting the Budapest Jewish Museum

35. *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, "Minters," p. 577

Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor.

I.N.S. OF ILLINOIS HOLDS AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS

An auction of donated coins, medals and books was featured at the sixteenth general meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois (INSI) in Chicago in late September.

The August meeting offered 5 Agorot-Shalom rolled coins. No more are available. Mr. Flower then gave a report of the AINA meeting that was held at the McAlpin Hotel in New York. This meeting was attended by the officers of AINA, and presidents of most of the Israel Numismatic Societies of the U. S. and Canada.

Mr. Avni, Director of Israel Govt. Coins and Medals Corp. released advance information on the sets of trade coins for 1971. These coins will be struck from highly polished planchets, handled by gloves, and placed into hermetically sealed hard-plastic containers. The holder will be labeled "Official Mint Set 1971" with two emblems, that of the *State of Israel* and of the *I. G. C. & M. Corp.* All sets will be serially numbered on the holder and will be released in February 1971. The coins in these special sets will be mint-marked for the first time with a six-pointed star, the mint mark of the Jerusalem Mint. Sets will also be issued in the plastic wallets, but these will contain the regular B. U. coins and will not bear the Mint Mark. None will be issued in the cardboard holders.

Next, Mr. Avni stated that the "New Year Token" for 1971 will feature a Phantom Jet and will pay homage to the Israel Air Force. These will be released after the Jewish New Year.

Other items—a new Israel numismatic film and also new slides will be available to clubs; AINA will have a "News Bulletin" issued in between issues of *The Shekel*; and AINA will republish out of print numismatic books and articles.

Mr. Bram then requested that all affiliate clubs, as a club, should become members of AINA. This was brought up at our August meeting, a motion made and voted in the affirmative.

Dr. Alan Feinberg displayed the earlier sets of Israel trade coins. He had the first card set of six coins issued in 1963 (Haffner #S-6). This set, originally sold for \$2.60 now has a value of \$80.00. Also, Dr. Feinberg had the card sets of the 1964 pruta denominations (Haffner #S-4 and S-5). These now have a value of \$30.00 each.

Mr. Harry Flower was the second exhibitor. The first part of his display consisted of rolled or elongated coins of Judaic interest. These were "SHALOM" (from 5 agorot Israel coin); "A HAPPY PASSOVER 5728" (from U. S. cent); "CHANUKAH" (from U. S. cent); "MOSES AND TEN COMMANDMENTS" (from U. S. cent); "MAURICE M. GOULD ANNIVERSARY" (from U. S. and Canadian cents).

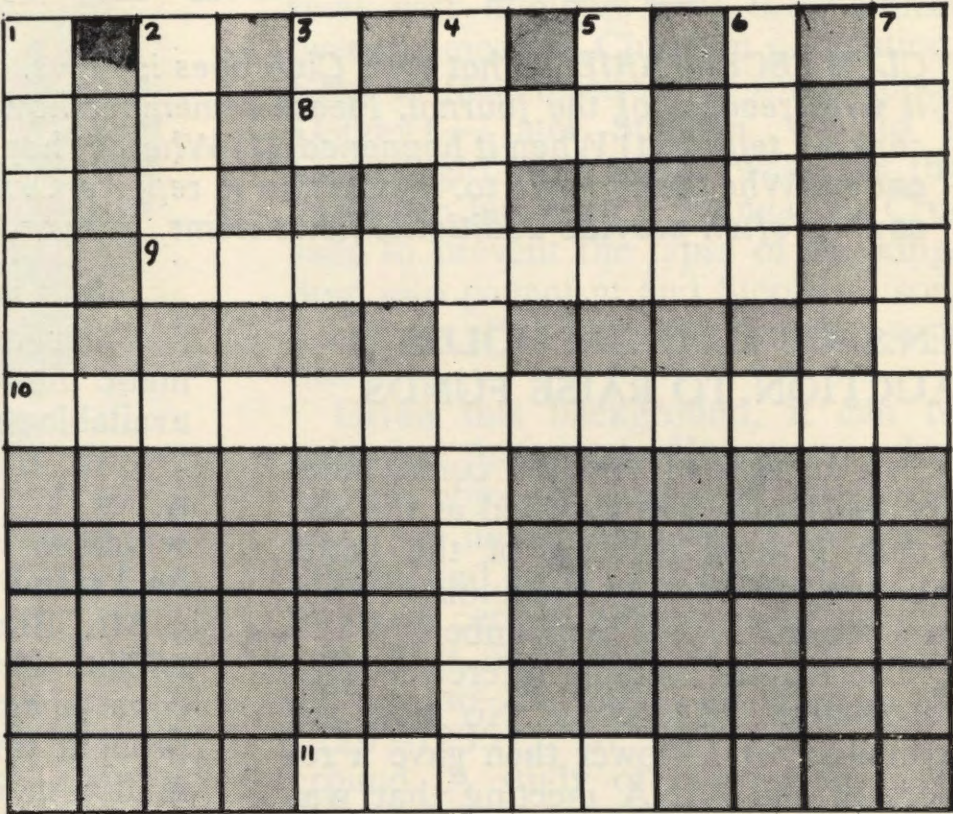
The second part of this exhibit consisted of the Israel ZAHAL VICTORY STAMPS (1967) and the 20th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL (1968), both sets of these commemorative stamps minted in silver and bronze. These were struck in Israel by permission of the Ministry of Post and Philatelic Service of the State of Israel.

NUMISMATIC CROSSWORD

by Alan R. Weinberg,
Teen-age collector

DOWN

1. Israel issues com-
memorative coins and _____.
2. The first Libera-
tion Medal was issued
_____ years after the
birth of Israel (in He-
brew).
3. Many Israel coin
and medal collectors
live in _____ (abbrev.).
4. The _____
was issued to com-
memorate the First
Uprising in AD 66-70.
5. Numeral 5 _____
(in Hebrew).
6. A _____ is some-
times used to make
fakes.
7. The _____ Numis-
matic Museum is in
Tel Aviv.



ACROSS

8. _____ of Israel.
9. _____ hosted the
14th Congress of the
IFCCTE.
10. The _____
Medal was issued to
French Generals who
assisted in opening the
Gulf of Eilat
11. Israel port city.

Solution on page 30

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PNG AINA ANA INS NASC



The door prizes donated by Mr. Nagy and Mr. DeKoven were won by Mr. Nagy, Mark Bisk and Dr. Goldberg. It was announced that one of our members won an award at the A.N.A. convention in St. Louis. Our vice president Dr. Alan Feinberg won third place in the Token category in competitive displays.

The highlight of this meeting was an address by Dr. Gleason Archer, Jr. Although a member of INSI for quite some time, he has been unable to attend previous meetings, this being his first. Rev. Gleason L. Archer, Ph.D., B.D. is Professor of Old Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and is an instructor in Hebrew. At present he is one of a group, financed by a grant from the Lockman Foundation, that is working on a new translation of the Old Testament from the original Hebrew into modern English. This project is scheduled to be completed in January 1971. Dr. Archer's talk was very informative and most interesting.

TEXANS SEE "BOOK AND IDOL" FILM

The beautiful color film, *The Book and the Idol*, based on the archaeological exhibition, *From the Land of the Bible* which traces the conflict between Paganism and Monotheism from the early dawn of civilization in Israel was featured at the September meeting of the INS of Texas. The club planned participation in the Israel Festival to be held later in September.

The October meeting featured two beautiful color sound films: *Today Israel* and *Go through the Gates*, very interesting films dealing with the effects of the areas of the Golan Heights, the settlements along the Gaza Strip, and the Old City of Jerusalem before and after the war.

The October meeting again featured an auction of Israel coins, medals or paper money.

SAN GABRIEL INS MAKES NEWS



The San Gabriel Club exhibit at the International Coin Show was titled, EL-AL: Israel Airlines. At the exhibit: Mrs. Esther Taller.

Esther Taller of Rosemead, Calif. won the Haffner-sponsored Best of Israel Award for a display of the Pidyon HaBen Coins. Mrs. Taller was honored with two awards at COIN.



Alva Christianson, secretary of the San Gabriel INS is shown giving a First Day Cover honoring the first anniversary of her club to Morris Bram, president of AINA.

A special cover has been created to commemorate the First Anniversary of the Israel Numismatic Society of San Gabriel Valley, California. The mark of 11-5-70, the AINA insignia, cover bears a Jerusalem Post Office a design noting the 22nd Year and Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, AND in a die-cut window, reveals a 5 Agorot coin with text explaining the coins design elements.

PENN GROUP HEARS ISRAEL ARMY OFFICER

The first Fall meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania was held in Philadelphia in late September.

Mr. Ben Zion Shany, Lieut. Colonel in the Israel army, veteran of the War of Independence, the War of 1956 and the Six Day War, was guest speaker.

Present and new members received as a gift the latest Israel New Year token showing the Phantom Jet (honoring the Israel Air Force). In addition, literature and information about the new Keren Hayesod Jubilee Israel State Medal of 1970 and other recent issues was distributed, reported Myron V. Harrison, Publicity Chairman.

MASS. GROUP HOLDS ELECTIONS

The first meeting of the INS of Massachusetts was held on the final Monday in September in Brookline, Massachusetts, reported Irving L. Rudin. An election of officers for the coming year was the first order of business.

10 self-addressed stamped envelopes were brought by each member to this meeting to make it easier for the secretary to issue meeting notices.

The recent meeting of all the presidents of the various Societies in New York was given. An extensive program for all the groups by both AINA and the Israel Government Coins and Medals was described.

Several news releases on new issues by the Israel Government were reprinted and provided to all members as part of the meeting notice.

CLEVELANDERS ELECT '70-'71 OFFICERS, PLAN ACTIVITIES

The first Fall meeting of the INS of Cleveland, Ohio heard talks by Stan Yulish, Sanford Brown and Charles Lenten. Subjects included *Ju-daica; The Ukrainian 100 Karbowanetz Note of 1917* and *Coin Care*.

Officers and committee chairmen for the Year 1970-1971:

President	Max Gladstone
Vice-President	Harvey tSone
Corr. Secretary	Sanford Brown
Recording Secretary	Richard Wengel
Treasurer	Sam Richman
Librarians	Henry Bloser & Ray Nolan
Telephone	Sanford Brown
Membership	Abe Schlachet
Sunshine	Max Gladstone
Programing	Harvey Stone & Jacob Hennenberg
Editor & Publicity	Sam Richman

The club members received advance notice on new coin and banknote issues of Israel.

A plan for a program of Junior Members was announced in the September meeting notice, along with a Question-and-Answer Department to be headen by Stanley Yulish.

INS OF GREATER MIAMI HEARS PALESTINE COIN TALK

The INS of Greater Miami met in early October to hear S. George Trager, a charter member of the club talk to us on Palestinian Coins during the mandate administration of the British Government, reported Bertha Sootin.

Mr. Hymen Sootin, demonstrated one of the newest security devices for protecting coin collectors.

An auction of Israel Numismatic material was part of the meeting.

ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF L. A. ISSUES 5th ANNIVERSARY COVER

Members of the Israel Coin Club of L. A. were urged to take advantage of another opportunity offered up to the end of this calendar year. It is the ISRAEL COIN CLUB of L. A. Fifth Anniversary Cover . . . which is for sale at the small cost of \$5.00 each until the total allocated to our Club — through the generosity of PAN-ART CO. — has been sold. The total issue of this Cover is 469. It is unique because the Post Office cancellation date is on a SATURDAY (June 27, 1970 — our Anniversary Date). All ISRAEL Post Offices are closed on SATURDAY. This cancellation date was a special accommodation to us for our Club's Anniversary.

It contains (2) 1-Agora Coins — one dated 1965 representing our birth year and, of course, the second coin is a 1970. All members received one cover as a Club Birthday Gift, and the balance will be sold at \$5.00 each. All money goes into the Club Treasury.

Approximately 55 people enjoyed a pleasant late Summer afternoon of friendship, entertainment, and education. Claire Abelson, pinch-hitting for Refreshment Chairman, Millie Fishel — on an extended 3-months tour of the world with her husband, Mel — serve 'goodies' which were enjoyed by everyone.

Peggy Borgolte gave a short resume of the A.N.A. Convention, and told us of her pleasant conversation with Messrs. Yitzhak Avni, Ephriam Levy, and Morris Bram.

Upon recommendation of the Board of Governors, Jerry Yahalom was voted upon by the membership for Life Membership #4. Congratulations, Jerry! To receive this esteem honor is the ultimate and dream of all members.

Who are the holders of this coveted Life Membership?

- #1 - Resigned
- #2 - Benjamin M. Abelson
- #3 - Claire Abelson
- #4 - Jerry Yahalom

Each is a Charter Member, and credited with hours and hours of dedicated efforts in building the ISRAEL COIN CLUB of L.A. into the especially fine organization it is today.

It was Jerry who pulled together all of the committees and all of the efforts which made the recent COIN Convention such a brilliant success.

(Editor: No wonder Jerry was honored by his fellow numismatists!)

Two New Members:

Helen Mae Coombs
Arthur Baker

Dick Trowbridge, Dr. A. Joffe, Muriel Freibrun and Ed McClung were called in our Membership Drawing; however, due to their absence, Larry Crites was the winner of the \$3.00 Prize.

Mrs. Lil Janko was thanked for her donation of the A.N.A. Medal to be added to our Door Prizes.

The program presented by John M.

Baker of the "99" Co. was superb. John is an artist when it comes to photography. The shots of special places taken during his recent trips to ISRAEL bring us closer to the country and more knowledgeable in numismatic pursuits.

N.A.S.C. Banquet Ticket won by Mrs. Eleanore Slater; 1970 ISRAEL Specimen Set won by Milt Fishgold; and 10-Pound — 1970 Pidyon HaBen Shekel, won by George Allison — in the Door Prize Awards.

The meeting was reported by Evelyn Sadler, Editor of the Club News.

CLEVELANDERS HEAR PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS

The Agora, monthly newsletter of the INS of Cleveland reports that the October meeting of the Society heard members Mike Kornhauser, Dick Wengel and Leo Kastner in the meeting room at the Ohio Savings Assn.

The publication announced various coins and medals available to AINA members and clubs which were ordered at the meeting. A new member of the Society, William E. Sedden, was greeted by the publication; and a new member of the world, a newborn son to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Stone, the INS VP was also welcomed. The club made a gift of a 1970 Wallet Specimen Set for the boy.

Door prizes for the first meeting of the year were won by Henry Bloser, Elmer Roth and Arnold Blitzer.

A question-and-answer section by Stanley Yulish covered the general reason for specific interest for collecting Israeli coins as well as thoughts on the collection of Arab coins, notes, bus tokens, etc.

The Agora reported on market trends of various coins from 1960 to 1963 which were shown to have risen from 1966 prices of \$40.00 to \$55.00; from \$125 to \$225; and in comparable ratios for an item which was \$6.50 in 1966 and which by 1970 had a market value of \$9.00 (1962 Half-Shekel, unc.).

The Agora is edited by Sam Richman.

MASS. GROUP HEARS CONNECTICUT GUEST

The October meeting of the INS of Massachusetts heard guest speaker, Mr. Fred E. Roganson of the Israel Numismatic Society of Connecticut, speak on the subject: *Israel - "Its will to survive"*. Mr. Roganson, in Israel this year with the AINA told of his experiences on this trip.

The following are the officers elected for the coming year:

<i>President</i>	<i>Irving L. Rudin</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Edward Shade</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Louise Buckley</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Sandra Walter</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Louis Green, 24 Maynard</i>
	<i>Ed., Newton</i>
<i>Executive</i>	<i>Leonard Serkess</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Marshall Schneider</i>
	<i>Murray Bloom</i>
	<i>David Parritz</i>
<i>New Issues</i>	<i>Marshall Schneider</i>
<i>& Supplies</i>	

Plans for the December Chanukah meeting were finalized at this meeting, reports Sandra Walter, Secretary.

NUMISMATIC PUZZLE SOLUTION

¹ M		² Y		³ U		⁴ M		⁵ H		⁶ C		⁷ K
E		O		⁸ S	T	A	T	E		A		A
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¹⁰ S	I	N	A	I	C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N
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						D						
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BIALIK HONORED

Continued

Ayech ("Where Art Thou"), *Tziporet* ("The Humming Bird"), *Hachnisini Tahat Kenafech* ("Enfold me Under Your Wing"), *Ha-Enayim ha-Re'evot* ("Those Hungry Eyes") — express both tenderness and violent passion.

As translator (Don Quixote, William Tell, The Dybbuk, Shakespeare etc.) he set a Hebrew stamp on the material. He edited and published works of Hebrew mediaeval poets.

Bialik's works have appeared in numerous editions. His letters have been published in five volumes and his recorded speeches in two volumes.

THIRD AINA TOUR

Continued

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1971 SPECIMEN SET TO BE

MINT-MARKED AND

NUMBERED FOR 175,000 SETS

Jerusalem . . . The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has announced the new 1971 specimen set details.

From 1971 a new coin set will be issued containing the six denominations currently in circulation: 1 Agora, 5, 10, and 25 Agorot, $\frac{1}{2}$ lira and 1 lira, in which each coin will bear a *mint mark* in the form of a tiny six-pointed Star of David.

A Ministerial Committee approved the issue of *mint marked sets* and legislation to the effect was passed by the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) on July 21, 1970. The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation will be the sole authorized Government agency to distribute this set. The new set will be marketed under the name *Official Mint Set*. Each set will be individually numbered serially. The mintage figure is 175,000.

Special care has been taken to use selected blanks and highly polished dies during the minting process in order to obtain a perfect reproduction of the beautiful motifs which characterize Israel Coins. The new Mint Set will be presented in a deluxe transparent plastic holder packaged in an attractive box and accompanied by a card giving historical and technical details of interest to the public.

The regular 1971 Specimen Set (*without* mint mark) will be available in the Wallet Presentation Folder only. The cardboard wrapping is being discontinued. Both sets will be released for distribution during February, 1971.

AINA members will have a limited quantity offered to them prior to public release. There is no way to order sets by their serial numbers.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued

Or, for example, what if the "+ 1" idea were to apply to our purchases of coins, books, etc. That would provide the basis for introducing others to an interesting and rewarding hobby; a chance to acquaint the family with Israel's history and achievements; an investment opportunity; and material for future trading with club associates and new members.

Or, suppose each club member were to make "+ 1" his personal plan for the meetings of his INS group: bring ONE person with him to each meeting . . . once a youth from a school coin club; once a member of his family to spread the pleasures of his hobby. Or, once, a business associate. Or, once, a member of a different numismatic group. These visitors would *double* the size of present meetings and would provide for the growth of the local clubs, and then AINA itself.

The "+ 1" program would make it possible for us to finance some of the projects that are in planning stages only because we now do not have the funds from those *extra* dues, *extra* income from coin and book sales, and *extra* benefits from larger press runs of our publications and planned books.

And close to my heart, for the "+ 1" program would be for those people who will be sharing the March trip to Israel to bring along ONE more person or couple . . . a youth, a member of the family, or a neighboring couple. How could anyone making that trip not take up the pleasure of numismatics, particularly of Israel's coinage, after such an experience.

During this month you will be sent your reminder that your own AINA membership is due for renewal. When you send in your own check, won't you please think of a friend who also should be enrolled and thus make your start into the year: 1971 + 1.

Cordially, Morris Bram,
President

GOULD'S GELT GUIDE

Continued

S. Menconi, and produced by Medallic Art.

I know the year 1971 will have many exciting covers in the Israeli field and all, whether interested in this specially or not, should have at least one cover in your collection. As larger amounts of the covers are issued each year, the first issues will become even more difficult to obtain.

Sylvia Haffner, in her *History of Modern Israel's Money*, lists the covers that were available at the time her book went to press.

The Government of Israel has been extremely cooperative with the producers and has seen the potential this hobby material has with collectors in the future.

KEREN HAYESOD

Continued

In the twenty-two years of the State the following have been Chairmen of the Keren Hayesod: Dr. A. Hantke, Zvi Herman, E. Dobkin and Dr. Israel Goldstein (since 1961).

As Secretary-General: Mr. Leo Herrman and as Director-General: M. Ussoskin and S. J. Kreutner (since 1968).

Among the regular emissaries of the Keren Hayesod mention should be made of Dr. Shmaryahu Levin, Dr. Wilenski and Dr. A. Goldstein.

This year 1970-5730 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Keren Hayesod. The Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. Ltd. honored this occasion with the striking of a State medal commemorating the Golden Anniversary. (*Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 4*) (*Vol. 2, No. 4, inside back cover*).

Anyone having in his possession a medal or numismia of any type directly related to the Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal, please get in touch with Sylvia Haffner, P. O. Box 2153 Sta. A. La Mesa, Calif. 92041, so that all of the information can be compiled.

NEW DISPLAY CIRCULATING ACROSS U.S.



The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation unveiled a new and modern exhibit of its issues during the ANA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel.

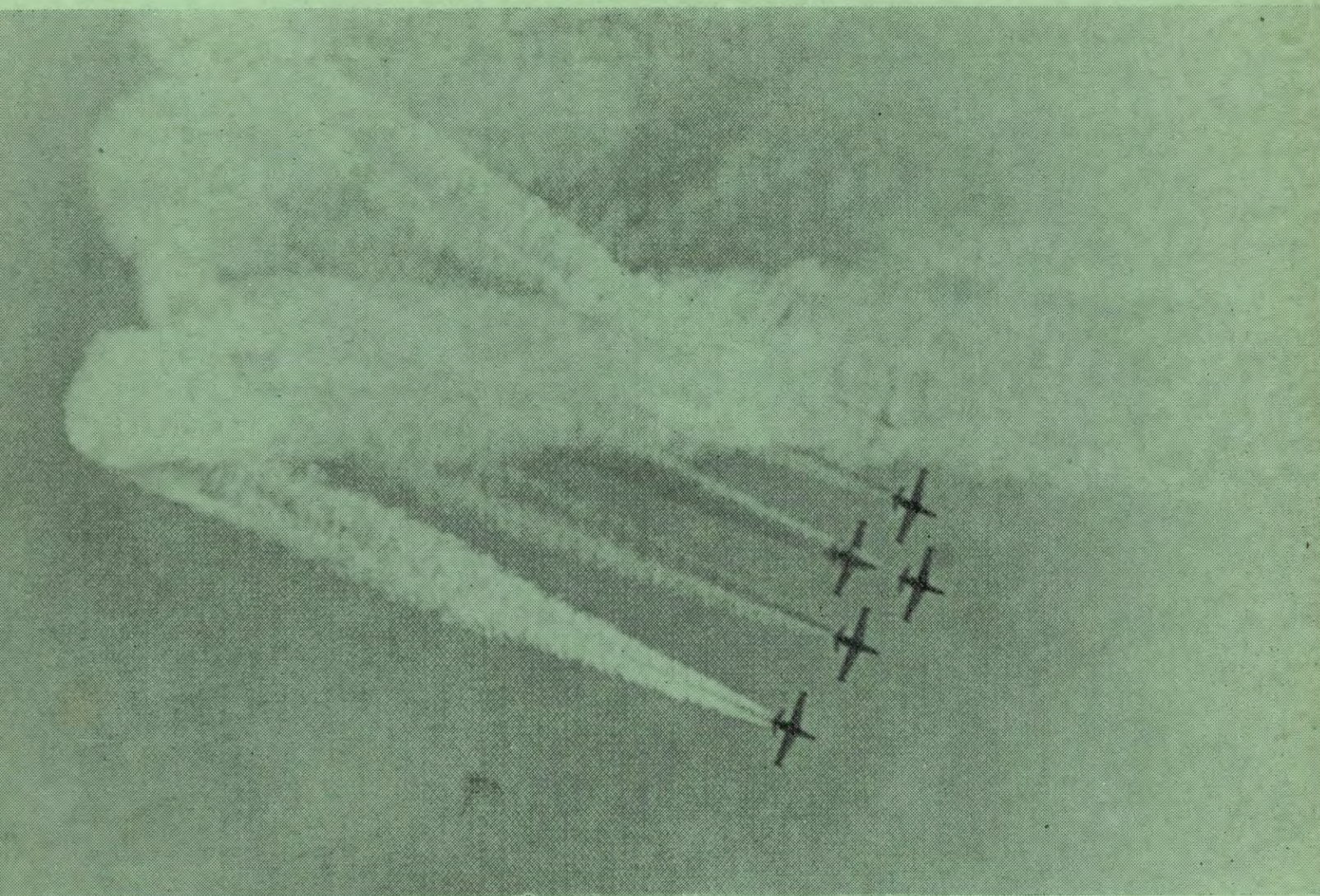
The beautifully designed exhibit features in bright colors most of the coins and medals issued by the Corporation.

A well conceived combination of ancient symbols and modern coins colorfully displayed, attracted and impressed the many delegates to the Convention, the numismatists and visitors alike.

The photo shows from left to right: Mr. Morris Bram, president of the American Israel Numismatic Association; Mr. Manny Haffner; Mrs. Sylvia Haffner, author of "The History of Modern Israel's Money"; Mr. E. Levy, Director for North America, Coins and Medals Department.

The display is now circulating across the U.S. It was one of the featured exhibits at the Grand Central Coin Convention which was held in N. Y. in November, 1970.

It was created by Alex Kaufman and Nat Dean of Displaycraft, New York.



The Israeli Air Force flies over Jerusalem during the 20th Anniversary festivities.
Photo by Nat Kameny.

Each year the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation issues a token which is a gift to friends all over the world on the occasion of the

Jewish New Year. This year (5731-1971) the token honors the Israel Air Force.

Obverse: Phantom Jet with Star of David on each wing.

In Hebrew and English: Homage to the I. A. F.

Reverse: Hebrew: Season's Greetings

1971 and Menorah

Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation

The token is 30mm of cupro-nickel with reeded edges.

